DC

5

WONDER WOMAN

KING
SAMPERE
MOREY

UNDER THE SOVEREIGN'S EYE

13+
TEEN

ALSO FEATURING
TRINITY
KING - ORTEGA - SÁNCHEZ

DC HEROES UNITE IN A CELEBRATION OF BLACK EXCELLENCE!

DC BLACK HISTORY MONTH

100 PAGES OF ALL-NEW STORIES AVAILABLE IN JANUARY

DC POWER 2024

FEATURING A FAR SECTOR EPILOGUE BY N.K. JEMISIN AND JAMAL CAMPBELL!

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COVER BY
CHASE CONLEY

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I AM SORRY. I AM DONE CHATTERING. WE DECIDE THIS AS AMAZONS.

YOU MUST CHOOSE YOUR CONTEST.

ARROWS.

ARMS.

SOMETHING DIFFERENT.

AND I'M SORRY TOO.

I HAVE HEARD. I ACCEPT.

ARROWS, ARMS, AND... DIFFERENT.

WE BEGIN TODAY. MAY HERA GRANT US HER MERCY.

HAVING ACCESS TO A NUMBER OF INTELLIGENCE ORGANIZATIONS, FROM CHECKMATE TO A.R.G.U.S. TO THE CIA, WE ARE WELL-INFORMED.

HOWEVER, EVEN WE ARE UNSURE OF HER PARTICULAR ORIGINS.

WAKE THE @$%# UP! YOU GOT A *VISITOR!*

THE CONFUSION STEMS FROM A DISAGREEMENT AMONG EXPERTS.

SOME SAY SHE IS AN EXCEPTIONALLY BRILLIANT APE WHO HAS EVOLVED INTO A WOMAN.

OTHERS THAT SHE IS AN EXCEPTIONALLY BRILLIANT WOMAN WHO HAS EVOLVED INTO AN APE, THEN AGAIN INTO A WOMAN.

DORIS! *NOW!*

YEAH, YEAH, I'M *COMING.* =YAWN= STOP SHOUTING.

I *HEAR* YOU. GOD.

IN TRUTH SUCH CONTROVERSIES MATTER LITTLE, IF AT ALL.

WHAT WAS ESSENTIAL FOR OUR PURPOSES, FOR THE WAR THAT WAS TO COME...

...IS NOT WHERE THIS MONSTER WAS BORN, BUT THAT *GIGANTA* HAD TRAVELED, CHANGED...

WHO ARE *YOU?*

...GROWN.

I'M *SERGEANT STEEL.*

I'M HERE TO HELP YOU KILL *WONDER WOMAN.*

WE HAD SOME HESITATION IN REACHING OUT TO THE WITCH.

CIRCE.

FOR ALL WOULD CONCEDE THAT THE EXTENT OF HER POWER IS NOT EASY TO JUDGE.

THE POSSIBILITY THAT SHE MIGHT MANIPULATE OUR DELICATE SITUATION AND USE US MORE THAN WE USED HER WAS REAL AND PERHAPS EVEN LIKELY.

HOWEVER, WE NOTED THAT, AT HER CORE, SHE WAS A WOMAN WHO SOUGHT GODHOOD AND FAILED, TIME AND AGAIN.

WHEREAS WE WERE SOVEREIGN, ANOINTED AND BLESSED.

ONE WHO STRIVES FOR THE POWER OF THE DIVINE WILL FOREVER BE BENEATH THOSE WHO HOLD IT.

SHE COULD PLOT HER PLOTS AND SCHEME HER SCHEMES TO HER BLACK HEART'S CONTENT.

IN THE END, SHE WOULD BOW BEFORE HER **BETTERS**, AS SHE ALWAYS HAD.

THAT SAID, WHEN THE GOOD AND DILIGENT SERGEANT CAME TO HER WITH OUR OFFER...

...THOUGH SHE EVENTUALLY ACCEPTED...

...WE CANNOT CLAIM THAT THE MEETING WENT ENTIRELY AS WELL AS HOPED.

I *DO* HAVE A QUESTION, IF YOU WILL GRANT ME YOUR *EAR.*

WHEN *I* WIN, WILL IT BE NECESSARY TO GO THROUGH THE *OTHER* TRIALS?

OR CAN WE JUST BE *DONE* WITH THIS *STUPIDITY* ALTOGETHER?

YOU WILL *NOT* WIN.

PLEASE. YOU ARE *OLD.* I AM *YOUNG.*

THIS IS A CHALLENGE OF SPEED, SIGHT, *REACTION.*

YOU HAVEN'T CONSIDERED THE *POSSIBILITY* THAT MAYBE I HAVE UMA LIGERIA VANTAGEM HERE?

NO.

I HAVE NOT CONSIDERED THAT.

OH NO. WELL, THEY SAY THE FIRST THING THAT GOES IS THE *WITS.*

SO *SAD,* SUCH A *PITY.*

WHERE ONCE WAS THE INTELLECT OF *ATHENA,* NOW THERE IS ONLY DUST AND *DECAY.*

THIS IS WHY I DID NOT HAVE A *SIDEKICK.*

ALL THE *ENDLESS* TALKING.

THE *REASON* YOU DIDN'T HAVE SIDEKICKS...

...IS BECAUSE YOU COULD *NEVER* KEEP UP WITH US, *OLD LADY.*

ONE!

BOLDLY SAID, MY FRIEND. MY *YARA.*

WHEN YOU ARE ON YOUR BACK WITH AN *ARROW* IN YOUR SOFT BELLY, I WILL REMIND YOU OF THE *CONFIDENCE* OF THOSE WORDS.

ONE!

EVERYONE NEEDS HELP, ***DIANA.*** I BELIEVE IT WAS ***YOU*** WHO TAUGHT ME SUCH A LESSON.

IT IS ***ODD,*** THEN, THAT ***THIS*** IS THE WAY ***YOU*** CHOOSE TO LEARN IT.

I NEVER TAUGHT YOU A THING, DEAR. I NEVER ***HAD*** TO.

I ONLY EVER ***LISTENED.*** AND IN THE ***SILENCE,*** YOU HEARD WHAT YOU THOUGHT YOU ***NEEDED*** TO HEAR.

TWO!

CRACK

TWO!

MODESTY IS NOT A VIRTUE OF ***GODS.*** NOR OF ***I.***

I TELL ***YOU*** THE TRUTH, AND YOU TELL ME ***LIES.*** I SHOULD'VE CHOSEN ***LASSOS*** INSTEAD OF ***ARROWS.***

YOU HAD YOUR ***STRENGTHS*** FROM THE BEGINNING. ***I*** SAW IT. YOU DID NOT NEED ME, ***ANY*** OF YOU.

YOU PERHAPS ***THOUGHT*** YOU DID, AND I PERHAPS DID NOT CORRECT YOU, BUT I DO NOT ***APOLOGIZE*** FOR THAT.

AT TIMES, A GOOD ***WARRIOR*** NEEDS AN ANCIENT ***MYTH.*** I MYSELF KNOW THAT MORE THAN ***MOST.***

THREE!

CRACK

CRACK

THREE!

YOU WISH FOR ME TO STAND HERE AND ***PRAISE*** YOU WHILE YOU GO OFF AND DO THIS ***IDIOCY*** ALONE?

I WILL ONLY PLAY ***ONE*** GAME AT A TIME.

AH, ***FINALLY,*** MY AGE GIVES ME AN ADVANTAGE.

FOR IT IS ONLY WITH GOOD, HARD ***YEARS*** THAT YOU SEE...

...NONE OF THIS IS A ***GAME.***

CRACK CRACK CRACK

FOUR!

FOUR!

THAT WILL DO IT.

I BELIEVE YOU ARE RIGHT, YOUNG ONE.

CRACK CRACK CRACK

STAND TALL, DIANA.

AS YOU TAUGHT ME, YARA.

SHNNT

GNNN!

THERE.

IT IS DONE.

ZZZZMMMMMM

NNNN.

YOU... BETTER NOT HAVE...HIT ANYTHING *IMPORTANT*... OLD LADY...

...IF I HAVE TO SPEND... ANOTHER *MONTH* WITH THAT DAMN... *HEALER*...

I HAVE AIMED *TRUE*. YOU WILL SUFFER LITTLE AND SOON HAVE *AMBROSIA* IN YOUR STOMACH WHERE ONCE WAS *PAIN*.

WHICH *ALSO* MEANS YOU HAVE BEEN *CHALLENGED*. YOU HAVE *LOST*.

YOUR *ARGUMENT* IS THROUGH. NOW *SWEAR* IT. BY THE *GODS*.

I...

...YOU *OLD* FOOL.

OLD AND *VICTORIOUS* FOOL.

NOW *SWEAR* IT. YOU WILL WALK AWAY FROM *MY* WAR.

DO NOT MAKE ME NOCK *FIVE*.

DR. PSYCHO BELIEVES HE HAS A COMPLICATED HISTORY.

BUT HE IS, IN FACT, THE SIMPLEST OF ALL THE CREATURES WE CONSIDERED FOR THIS PROJECT.

A GENIUS WHOSE WIFE FELL FOR A MAN POSSESSING A MORE, SHALL WE SAY, DEVELOPED STATURE...

...HE IDIOTICALLY VOWED VENGEANCE NOT ONLY ON THE WOMAN WHO RIGHTLY REJECTED HIM BUT ON THE ENTIRETY OF HER KIND.

THAT IS, HER FELLOW FEMALES, WHO UNDOUBTEDLY WOULD HAVE REENACTED A SIMILAR FARCE.

AND FROM THESE FIRST HUMBLE RAMBLINGS, HE BUILT A CAREER OF CARNAGE AND DECEPTION.

CONVINCING HIMSELF THAT HIS QUEST TO REPRESS DISTAFF DOMINANCE WAS A NOBLE AND GALLANT ONE, WORTHY OF A KNIGHT.

OR PERHAPS EVEN A KING.

IF YOU CAN IMAGINE.

IT IS ALL, OF COURSE, RATHER LAUGHABLE.

FOR ALL THE GUTS HE HAS SPILLED, ALL THE POETRY HE PREACHES, HE IS STILL BUT A TINY MAN WHO COULD NOT CONVINCE A PEASANT TO LOVE HIM.

IN FACT, WE WERE ON THE VERGE OF SUGGESTING WE LEAVE THIS DISTURBING MAN BEHIND WHEN--

--WITHOUT OUR INFORMING HIM OF OUR NEED--

--HE **SURPRISED** US BY FINDING HIS WAY INTO OUR WORLD.

FOR EACH OF THESE MISSIONS OF DIPLOMACY WE DEPLOYED OUR DEVOUT SERVANT, THE PUGNACIOUS SERGEANT STEEL.

HE IS A MAN WHO HAS SPENT HIS CAREER CONVINCING LOWER SORTS TO JOIN HIS VARIOUS CAUSES, AND WE ALLOWED HIM TO PLY HIS TRADE.

HE DID NOT DISAPPOINT, WE ARE CONTENT TO NOTE. WE ARE EVER A GOOD JUDGE OF CHARACTER.

IN APPROACHING **GRAIL**, HOWEVER, WE SURMISED IT WOULD BE BEST IF WE OURSELVES MADE AN APPEARANCE TO BEG HER FAVOR.

FOR IT IS WELL ESTABLISHED THAT TRUE GODS DEMAND WORE THAN MERE WORDS PROMISING GORE AND GLORY.

NO, GODS MUST BE SHOWN PROPER RESPECT.

AND WHO BETTER TO PAY TRIBUTE TO THE DAUGHTER OF DARKSEID THAN WE, THE SON OF A DOZEN KINGS OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA?

YOU KNOW, GROWING UP, I WAS NEVER A ***PRINCESS*** GIRL.

I'M NOT SAYING I DIDN'T LIKE ***PINK*** OR WOULDN'T SEE A MOVIE AND SING A SONG NOW AND THEN. SURE, WHATEVER, THAT'S ***FUN.***

JUST...THE WHOLE IDEA OF DRESSING UP IN ***DAINTY*** RIBBONS AND BOWS AND WAITING AROUND FOR SOME INBRED DUDE TO CONFESS HIS LOVE...

THAT ***NEVER*** DID MUCH FOR ME.

I LIKED TO GET OUTSIDE, GET IN THE ***MUD,*** PLAY IT DIRTY.

GO UNTIL SOMEONE HAS TO ***YELL*** AT YOU, THEN GO A LITTLE LONGER UNTIL THEY'RE YELLING ***REAL*** LOUD.

I WASN'T ***WAITING*** FOR ANYONE.

BUT WHEN I ***MET*** YOU, DIANA, THE WAY ***YOU*** CARRIED YOURSELF.

THE WAY YOU SAID TO THE WORLD, "I WILL ***NOT*** BE RULED."

THEN I ***FINALLY*** GOT IT, Y'KNOW--WHAT ALL THOSE OTHER ***FRILLY*** GIRLS SAW. THE ***BEAUTY*** IN THE DRESS AND THE HAIR AND THE TOWER AND THE SONG.

AND I BECAME A ***PRINCESS GIRL.***

SO IF YOU THINK I'M GOING TO LEAVE ***YOU*** ALONE ***NOW...*** WITH WHAT ***YOU'RE*** FACING?

ME, THE PRINCESS GIRL...

NO. I GOT A ***LOT*** OF DOUBTS, BEING IN THE MIDDLE, BUT I DON'T DOUBT ***THAT.***

YOUR WORDS ARE *KIND* AND APPRECIATED.

I KNOW WELL WHO *YOU* ARE, *CASSIE.*

BUT *MY* BURDEN SHALL NOT BE *YOURS.*

YARA'S MISTAKE WAS TAKING YOU ON IN *SKILL.*

YOU'VE HAD MORE *TIME* THAN US. MORE *PRACTICE.*

BUT *THIS* IS JUST YOU AND ME, ARM TO ARM. *YEARS* DON'T MEAN SO MUCH ANYMORE, RIGHT?

A *FAIR* ASSUMPTION, I CONCEDE.

ASSUMING YOU ARE STRONGER THAN I.

I'M NOT ASSUMING ANYTHING.

YOU GET *YOUR* MUSCLES FROM YOUR *MOTHER.* *ZEUS* GAVE ME MINE. LIKE, *IN PERSON.*

SAY WHAT YOU WILL FOR THE *QUEEN* ABOVE, BUT SHE STILL DOESN'T SIT AT THE *HEAD* OF THE TABLE.

YOU ARE *RIGHT,* YEARS DO NOT MATTER FOR *THIS* CONTEST.

BUT THEY DO PROVIDE SOME *WISDOM.*

SO PLEASE *TRUST* ME WHEN I SAY TO YOU...

...HIPPOLYTA OF THE AMAZONS CONCEDES *NOTHING* TO ANY OTHER GOD.

ALMOST *HAD* YOU.

I APOLOGIZE, CASS. I WAS NOT BORN AS YOU WERE. MY ENGLISH IS NOT ALWAYS SO *PERFECT.*

I HAVE NEVER UNDERSTOOD THIS *"ALMOST."*

IT SEEMS TO *ME* TO HAVE ALMOST *NO* MEANING AT ALL.

WAIT...IS THAT...IS THAT A *JOKE?* DO YOU... *JOKE* NOW?

DID I, LIKE, *FINALLY* HAVE SOME *INFLUENCE* ON YOU?

MY DEAR, YOU HAVE *GROWN* MY HEART.

YOU HAVE *TAUGHT* ME HOW TO BE AN *AMERICAN.*

I AM *ETERNALLY* GRATEFUL FOR ALL YOUR VERY *MANY* INFLUENCES UPON ME.

THEN...WHY... THE *HELL*...WON'T YOU LET ME...

...HELP YOU...

AFTER THE PRESIDENT'S SPEECH, THE *ENTIRE* COUNTRY IS AGAINST ME, AND *MORE HORRORS* ARE COMING.

BLOOD WILL BE SPILLED. I *KNOW* IT.

LET IT BE *MINE*...NOT *YOURS*...

YOU... YOU...THINK I'M...I'M...

...WEAK...

NO...NO... MY LOVE...IT IS *I* WHO... IS WEAK.

I AM NOT... I *CANNOT* SEE YOU...

...IN PAIN.

NO.

SWEAR IT.

I *WON'T* INTERFERE.

YOU CAN HAVE *YOUR* WAR.

I *SWEAR* IT.

THANK YOU.

MY *PRINCESS.*

WE ADVISED THE SERGEANT TO BE DELICATE WITH THE BIRD.

STEEL HAS MANY VIRTUES. LISTENING TO SOUND ADVICE IS TRAGICALLY NOT ALWAYS ONE OF THEM.

HE HAD BEEN BRIEFED THAT THE BIRD DESPISED WONDER WOMAN.

AND THUS, IN THE HOPE OF WINNING THE BIRD'S FAVOR, STEEL TOLD HER HE WAS THERE TO HELP HER MURDER HER OLD FOE.

AT WHICH POINT STEEL WAS TAKEN INTO THE SKY AND DROPPED.

HE HAD FAILED TO COMPREHEND THAT WONDER WOMAN HAD ONCE, LONG AGO, SAVED THE BIRD FROM A MOST GRUESOME DISASTER.

THE AMAZON NURSED THE WOMAN BACK TO HEALTH, CARED FOR HER, BEFRIENDED HER.

AND THEN, AS THE BIRD PERCEIVES IT, WONDER WOMAN VICIOUSLY BETRAYED HER AT JUST THE MOMENT THAT SHE WAS FALLING IN LOVE WITH THE PRINCESS.

SADLY, STEEL DID NOT YET KNOW HOW THIS UNREQUITED DESIRE HAD DRIVEN THE **SILVER SWAN** INTO THE DEPTHS OF MANIA.

AND SO HE HAD TO FALL.

FOR A WHILE.

GENERATIONS HAD ATTEMPTED TO CAPTURE OUR THRONE...

...BUT HAPPILY, ALL EVENTUALLY BOWED BEFORE US AS THEY EITHER BEGGED FOR OUR MERCY OR EXPOSED THEIR NECK BEFORE WE LOPPED THEIR HEAD OFF.

WE HAVE SURVIVED MUCH AND FEAR LITTLE.

BUT LITTLE IS NOT NONE, AND I DO NOT HESITATE TO ADMIT WE FEARED HIM.

THOUGH WE HAD WEATHERED CRISIS AFTER CRISIS, WE HAD NEVER ENDURED ANYTHING LIKE THE POWER HE WAS CAPABLE OF WIELDING.

FOR YOU SEE, SOME YEARS AGO ANGELO BEND DISCOVERED THE ANGLE.

THE MISSING MATH THAT COMPLETES THE ANTI-LIFE EQUATION.

LAMENTABLY, THE POOR MAN HAD NO IDEA WHAT HE HAD DONE.

HE BELIEVED HIMSELF TO BE JUST A THIEF WHO FOUND A TRIANGLE AND SOON THEREAFTER LOST ANY HINT OF SANITY.

IT WAS OUR UNPRECEDENTED ANXIETY OVER WHAT HE MIGHT ACHIEVE SHOULD HE UNDERSTAND HIS DISCOVERY THAT ULTIMATELY DROVE US TO HIM.

FOR WE KNEW IF WE WERE AFRAID, SO WAS SHE, FOR SHE MUST KNOW THE ONLY PERSON ALIVE THAT COULD POSSIBLY EQUAL HER BLOW FOR BLOW WAS...

...ANGLE MAN.

"IT'S NOT HARD.

"WHAT THIS COUNTRY HAS DONE TO US...

P1
BATMAN

SELECT YOUR FIGHTER

P2
???

?

DONNA

PRESS START

...WHAT THEY HAVE DONE TO *YOU*, DIANA.

IT IS MY DUTY TO *FIGHT* WHAT IS *WRONG*.

OR SO OUR MOTHER DRILLED INTO ME, FOR TOO MANY YEARS.

click

P1
BATMAN

SELECT YOUR FIGHTER

P2
SUPERMAN

DONNA

DIANA

THAT WAS NOT THE *ONLY* MESSAGE SHE IMPARTED, AS *YOU* KNOW WELL ENOUGH, LITTLE SISTER.

SHE WAS A *QUEEN* WHO FOUGHT HER OWN BATTLES.

THERE ARE *TERRORS* IN THE NIGHT. AND THERE ARE MOMENTS WHEN A WOMAN *MUST* WALK ALONE INTO THAT *CURSED* AND QUIET BLACK.

THIS IS NOT A CHOICE, BUT A *SACRIFICE*. NOT A WISH, BUT A *NECESSITY*.

BATMAN

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SUPERMAN

ROUND 1

I *LOVE* YOU. EACH OF YOU. *ALL* OF YOU.

AND I WILL NOT SEE YOU WOUNDED IN THIS *WICKED* FOLLY.

I DO NOT BELIEVE *YOU* HAVE AS MUCH SAY IN THAT MATTER AS *YOU* THINK.

CASSIE AND YARA CHALLENGED YOU ON *YOUR* TURF, WHERE YOU HAVE LIVED YOUR EVER-THRILLING LIFE: *PHYSICAL* COMBAT.

THIS... I THINK THIS MIGHT GO A *TEENY* BIT DIFFERENTLY.

WAIT, HOW DID YOU *DO* THAT, DONNA?

DID WE EVEN *START*? I DO NOT THINK MY... *BUTTON THING* IS WORKING YET.

YOU'VE SPENT THE LAST DECADE WITH *CLARK* AND *BRUCE,* SAVING THE WORLD, BATTLING DARKSEID AND LEX LUTHOR.

I'VE SPENT IT WITH *GAR* AND *VICTOR,* AND YES, SOMETIMES WE FIGHT DARKSEID AND LEX LUTHOR AND WE SAVE THE WORLD NOW AND THEN.

BUT HONESTLY, *MOSTLY* WE *GAME.*

I AM PRESSING THE *HANDLES* FOR FORWARD, AND I AM MOVING BACKWARD. IS IT STUCK? I DON'T UNDERSTAND...

YOU HAVE *BEWITCHED* IT. IT IS NO *FAIR* CONTEST.

THAT'S NOT *MAGIC* YOU'RE EXPERIENCING, *DARLING SISTER.*

THAT THERE'S JUST PURE, BEAUTIFUL *SKILL.*

JUST *REMEMBER,* AND THIS WAS SOMETHING IT TOOK ME A FEW *YEARS* TO GET DOWN AND RIGHT...

WHEN YOU *LOSE* AND YOU THROW YOUR CONTROLLER, DON'T THROW IT *AT* THE TV.

BETTER TO JUST BREAK *ONE* DEVICE THAN *TWO.*

ABOUT OVER **NOW.** LOOK AT YOUR **ENERGY** THERE.

CASS AND YARA CAN **KEEP** THEIR VOWS. **WE'LL** FIGHT THEM TOGETHER. YOU AND I. **WONDER WOMAN** AND **DONNA TROY.**

AGAINST THE WHOLE **DAMN** COUNTRY.

SUPERMAN

HM.

YOU **ARE** RIGHT, SISTER.

I HAVE SPENT MY LIFE WITH **BRUCE** AND **CLARK.**

BATMAN

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SUPERMAN

I HAVE SEEN THEM GET **VERY** ANGRY, AND IN THAT ANGER I **HAVE** SEEN THEM FIGHT.

PERHAPS NOT **COUNTLESS** TIMES, BUT MORE **OFTEN** THAN YOU MIGHT PRESUME. AS THEY ARE AS MUCH **BROTHERS** AS WE ARE **SISTERS.**

NOW, **MY** OBSERVATION UPON WITNESSING THOSE BATTLES IS **TWOFOLD.**

FIRST, **BATMAN** NEEDS **TIME,** A PLAN, PREPARATION. HE COULD NOT JUST START AND GO AND HAVE **ANY** HOPE.

WHAT ARE **YOU**--THIS ISN'T-- **STOP**...YOU DON'T EVEN...WHAT?

BATMAN

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SUPERMAN

AND **SECOND,** WHEN THEY DO COME TO **BLOWS,** FOR REASONS I CANNOT FATHOM, AND LIKELY CLARK CANNOT AS WELL...

...SUPERMAN **ALWAYS** HOLDS BACK.

I HAVE OCCASIONALLY IMAGINED WHAT **WOULD** HAPPEN IF THEY JUST CAME TOGETHER IN A MOMENT AND DID **ALL** THEY COULD.

I THINK IT WOULD BE **GOOD,** ACTUALLY.

K.O.

I SAY THIS AS SOMEONE WHO **LOVES** HIM.

BUT BRUCE COULD USE THE **HUMILITY.**

EVENTUALLY IT WOULD MAKE HIM **STRONGER.**

@$%@$%!

TEEN TITANS GO!

CRAKSH

DONNA TROY...

...WHAT WOULD *MOTHER* SAY?

HOW...

I TOLD *YOU*. I SAW SUPERMAN'S POWER. AND I SAW BATMAN'S *PREPARATION*. I LEARNED.

I KNOW WHO *YOUR* FRIENDS ARE. SO I *PREPARED*.

IT'S A *STUPID* GAME. YOU CAN'T *POSSIBLY* EXPECT ME TO--

YOU ARE *AMAZON*, RAISED AS I WAS, WITH BLOOD, SWEAT, AND *DUTY*.

YOU HAVE BEEN *DEFEATED* IN A TOURNEY. AS IS OUR SACRED TRADITION, YOU WILL CONCEDE OUR ARGUMENT AND YOU *WILL* SWEAR.

I...

DO NOT *DISHONOR* OUR FAMILY, SISTER.

WHAT IS OVER IS OVER. *YOU* HAVE *LOST*. *CASSIE* HAS LOST. *YARA* HAS LOST.

YOU MUST TREAD THEIR WORN PATH AND GIVE *YOUR* WORD, AS I WOULD SURELY HAVE GIVEN *MINE*.

PLEASE...

DIANA, LET US *HELP* YOU.

N-*NO*.

NO *THANK* YOU.

=SIGH=

I WILL LET YOU FIGHT THIS THREAT *ALONE*.

I *SWEAR* IT.

BY THE DAMNED GODS AND ALL THEIR *DAMNED* HONOR, I *SWEAR* IT.

WHEN WE FIRST SET OUT TO CONQUER THIS IMPETUOUS WOMAN, I FOOLISHLY BELIEVED THAT OUR STANDING ARMY, THE GREATEST IN THE HISTORY OF THE WORLD, WOULD BE QUITE ENOUGH.

BUT TO THIS POINT, SHE HAD DEFEATED US ON THE FIELD AND HUMILIATED OUR CAPTAIN WITHIN HIS OWN HIGH SEAT OF COMMAND.

AND THUS, AS ALL LEGENDARY LEADERS MUST, WE ADJUSTED OUR INITIAL PLANS.

A NEW ARMY WAS GATHERED.

AN ARMY OF MADNESS, POWER, OBSESSION, MAGIC, SAVAGERY, DIVINITY...

...AND HATE.

THIS UNQUESTIONABLY SHOULD HAVE BEEN SUFFICIENT.

SHE WAS BUT ONE, AND WE WERE SO VERY MANY.

YES, WE WERE WELL AWARE OF HER ALLIES.

THE OFT-CELEBRATED **WONDER GIRLS.**

THIS IS BUT ONE OF THE RATIONALES WE HAD IN THE BEGINNING FOR STRIKING HARD AND FAST AT THE HEART OF THE WARRIOR AMAZON.

WE KNEW VERY WELL, IF WE COULD HURT HER, SHE WOULD RECOGNIZE WE COULD JUST AS EASILY HURT HER FAMILY.

THOSE FOR WHOM SHE WOULD DO ABSOLUTELY ANYTHING TO KEEP THEM FROM HARM.

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OUR GAMBLE IN THIS MATTER WAS WELL PLAYED AND SEEMINGLY WELL REWARDED.

FOR AS WE GATHERED OUR FORCES, SHE DISMISSED HERS.

HER OWN DOLTISH COMPASSION ALLOWING US TO OBTAIN THE KEY FIELD ADVANTAGE OF NUMERICAL SUPERIORITY.

OBVIOUSLY A CENTRAL PART OF THAT RISK WAS OUR FAITH IN HER AUTHORITY OVER THOSE CRUDE ACOLYTES OF HERS, HER ABILITY TO TELL THEM TO STAND DOWN.

BUT IT HARDLY SEEMS TO BE A WEAK LIMB ON WHICH WE CHOSE TO STAND.

AFTER ALL, SHE WAS A PRINCESS. SHE WAS A RULER. SHE WAS WONDER WOMAN.

SHE WOULD FIND A WAY TO MAKE THEM OBEY.

WE CONSIDERED OUR *HOLY* OATHS AND WHAT WE OWE THE GODS AND WHAT WE *OWE* YOU.

AND IT'S NOT CLOSE TO--

@$%#%#* OATHS. *@$%& THE GODS. @%#@% TOURNEYS.

YOU WANT *US* TO LET YOU FACE THIS *ALONE?* *@$%# THAT,* TOO.

DIANA, I THINK WHAT YARA IS *TRYING* TO SAY, IN HER OWN SPECIAL WAY, IS...

...NO THANK YOU.

UNFORTUNATELY, AND FOR THE FIRST AND ONLY TIME, WE ACTUALLY OVERESTIMATED WONDER WOMAN'S FACILITY TO ENACT HER WILL.

AND SO SHE ACQUIRED HER OWN ARMY.

AN ARMY OF SKILL, STRENGTH, CUNNING.

AND LOVE.

DC Comics Presents

WONDER WOMAN: OUTLAW PART 5

TOM KING writer//DANIEL SAMPERE artist//TOMEU MOREY colorist//CLAYTON COWLES letterer
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SUPERMAN created by JERRY SIEGEL & JOE SHUSTER.
By special arrangement with the JERRY SIEGEL FAMILY.

TO BE CONTINUED...

THEMYSCIRA.

"I DIDN'T GET SPECIAL PERMISSION FROM ***QUEEN MOM*** TO HAVE BOYS IN PARADISE TO ***SIT*** HERE AND KEEP ARGUING.

"WE'RE ***HERE.*** WE'VE GOT OUR ***RIDES.***

"WE'RE DECIDING THIS IN THE ONLY ***FAIR*** WAY. THE ***AMAZON*** WAY."

I MEAN, SURE, IT'S NOT ***ACTUALLY*** FAIR, 'CAUSE I'M THE ***BEST*** AT THIS PARTICULAR ACTIVITY. BUT REALLY, LET'S BE ***REAL*** WITH OURSELVES, BOYS...

...I'M THE BEST AT ***MOST*** PARTICULAR ACTIVITIES, SO DECIDING ON ***THIS ONE*** WAS JUST KIND OF A RANDOM SELECTION OF WHICH ONE I'M ***DESTINED*** TO WIN.

IN FACT, IF IT'S EASIER, MAYBE WE JUST ***SKIP*** THE WHOLE RACE THING AND ACCEPT THAT I ***NAILED*** IT THE FIRST TIME OUT.

AND **MY** CHOICE FOR THE NAME OF OUR TRIUMPHANT TRIO IS THE BEST AND IS ***THE ONE.***

YOUR CHOICE, LIZZIE...

...***THAT*** WOULD BE...

..."TRINITY'S TRINITY"?

I MEAN, C'MON, THAT'S JUST ***PERFECT,*** RIGHT? IT'S GOT ALLITERATION. IT'S GOT ***POETRY.*** IT'S NOT JUST ***CATCHY,*** IT'S ***DESCRIPTIVE.***

I CAN ***ALREADY*** SEE IT ON BILLBOARDS AND T-SHIRTS AND, LIKE, WHAT? MAYBE A ***THEME PARK?***

PICTURE IT, BOYS: THERE ***I'M*** STANDING, WITH MY TWO BROTHERS BEHIND ME...SLIGHTLY... ***SMALLER*** THAN ME--AND IN BIG, BOLD LETTERS--

"TRINITY'S TRINITY."

NO.

WOW, WHAT AN ***ARGUMENT,*** D. I MEAN, HOW CAN I COUNTER SUCH ***REASON?*** ME, WHO WAS RAISED WITH ONLY ***PLATO*** AND ***ARISTOTLE*** AS MY KIDDIE BOOKS.

SIGH I GUESS WE'LL ***HAVE*** TO GO THROUGH THE MOTIONS OF THIS WHOLE RIGMAROLE. I LOOK ***FORWARD*** TO LOOKING ***BEHIND*** AT YOU.

ON **MY** COUNT...

THREE...

WHY DO *YOU* GET TO COUNT?

C'MON, DAME. SHE'S THE *YOUNGEST*, AND THEY'RE *HER* ANIMALS. WE'RE *BATMAN* AND *SUPERMAN*. LET HER *HAVE* THIS.

TWO...

SHE'S GOING TO *CHEAT*.

CAN'T YOU FOR *ONCE* HAVE SOME *FAITH* IN PEOPLE?

WE ALREADY LET HER DECIDE *HOW* WE'RE GOING TO DO THIS. SHE'S NOT--

ONE!

FAITH. =TT= DO YOU EVER *TIRE* OF BEING WRONG, JONATHAN?!

NO!

I MEAN, *YES!*

I MEAN, IT WOULD HONESTLY BE *NICE* IF IT AT LEAST WORKED OUT EVERY *ONCE* IN A WHILE!

YOU REALIZE, OF COURSE, THIS IS ALL ***YOUR*** DOING.

HAD YOU SIMPLY VOTED FOR ***MY*** NAME, WE MIGHT HAVE AVOIDED THIS FARCE.

"DELTA FORCE" SOUNDS LIKE A MOVIE YOUR GRANDFATHER MAKES YOU WATCH TO CONVINCE YOU YOU'RE ***STRAIGHT.***

WHAT DOES IT EVEN HAVE TO DO WITH ***US?***

DELTA MEANS THREE.

FORCE MEANS FORCE.

I KNOW IT'S NOT AS STRAIGHTFORWARD AS ***S*** STANDING FOR ***HOPE,*** BUT I THINK PEOPLE WILL ***GET*** IT.

NOW, ***SUPER FRIENDS. THAT'S*** A NAME. WE'RE NOT JUST ***SONS*** ANYMORE. WE'RE ***FRIENDS.***

OR... ***FAMILY.*** WE'RE FAMILY. ***SUPER FAMILY.*** IS THAT BETTER?

I DON'T KNOW. WHAT DO ***YOU*** THINK?

I THINK WE'RE ***LOSING.***

TRINITY OF THE SOON-TO-BE ***TRINITY'S TRINITY*** NOW ***SURGING*** AHEAD!

HOW'S MY ***DUST*** TASTE, BOYS♂! PROBABLY LIKE ***KANGAROO FARTS***, I'M GUESSING!

WHEN SHE CHOSE THE MORE ***FLATULENT*** MOUNT, I ASSUMED IT WAS IN ***ERROR.***

LIZZIE! ***AHEAD*** OF YOU--***TURN AROUND!***

I REALLY, REALLY DON'T WANT YOU BOYS TO FEEL ***BAD*** ABOUT THIS!

YOU ***HAVE*** TO SEE THAT THE REASON I'M DOING SO ***VERY*** WELL IS BECAUSE ***YOU*** HELPED RAISE ME!

YOU'RE NOT ***LOSERS***...PER SE! YOU'RE ***WINNERS!*** JUST IN A DIFFERENT, MORE ***LOSERY*** WAY!

SHE HAS MORE ***CLEVERNESS*** IN HER THAN SENSE.

LIZZIE! THE ***CLIFF!*** TURN AROUND!

CLIFF♂ WHAT CLIFF♂ WHAT ARE ***YOU--***

AH, @#$%@.

CLIFF.

LIZZIE! STOP!

PLEASE!

OH GOOD, YOU SAID *PLEASE.* I'M SURE THAT'S GOING TO SOLVE IT.

C'MON, *GIRL.* I KNOW WHO *YOU* ARE.

AND I KNOW A LITTLE SOMETHING ABOUT *TOXIC* PARENTAL EXPECTATIONS LEADING TO TREMENDOUSLY *STUPID* DECISIONS...

...SO I'M THINKING NO DAUGHTER OF *JUMPA* IS GOING TO GIVE UP A CHANCE TO GO *OVER* THIS ONE.

HYAAA!

OH NO, SOMEHOW YOUR *"PLEASE"* DIDN'T DISSUADE HER FROM A SUICIDAL JUMP. *SHOCKING.*

AT *LEAST* I'M TRYING, DAME.

MAYBE THE *S* STANDS FOR *SO* LITTLE, SO *LATE.*

FOR THE LAST *DANG* TIME! THE *S* STANDS FOR *HOPE!*

WAIT, JON, THAT'S--

OH NO, *JUMPA JR.*....HOLD IT TOGETHER...

DON'T--

GNNN!

KKRAAACH

LIZZIE, *LIZZIE*, YOU ALL RIGHT?

ARE YOU SERIOUSLY *ASKING* THE COMA PATIENT IF SHE'S *ALL RIGHT?*

THIS IS THE ESSENTIAL PROBLEM WITH *INVULNERABILITY*. IT NECESSITATES A *THICK* SKULL.

MM...

I...

SO *NOW'S* THE TIME FOR *JOKES*, DAME, *REALLY?!* YOU'RE JUST GOING TO *MOCK* EVERYONE AS OUR *SISTER* LIES BLOODY ON THE *GROUND?!*

NO, IT'S THE TIME FOR *CONDESCENSION*, AND YOU'RE DOING *FANTASTIC*, JONATHAN!

I WIN.

LIZZIE! YOU'RE *OKAY!*

WHAT DO *YOU* WIN?

YOU DIDN'T EVEN *FINISH*. =TT= YOU BARELY *STARTED.*

I DIDN'T...DIDN'T THINK I COULD BUT I COULDN'T I *DID* I SHOULDN'T BUT I DID...

I *HOPED* I COULD... AND I...I COULD I COULD... I *DID*...

GREAT. YOU *BROKE* HER.

HOW DID *I* BREAK HER?

YOU'RE *SUPERMAN.* YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO *SAVE* HER. DOES SHE LOOK *SAVED?*

I'M SUPPOSED TO SAVE HER? WHAT EXACTLY, THEN, DOES *BATMAN* DO?

I AM *VENGEANCE.* I AM THE NIGHT. I *AVENGE* HER. NIGHTLY.

OUR PARENTS WERE SO ***PRIVILEGED,*** BUT THEY DIDN'T KNOW IT.

THEIR WORLD WAS ONE OF ***HEROES*** TRIUMPHING.

OURS...AFTER ***ALL*** THAT'S HAPPENED... AFTER THE OLD GODS AND LEX'S LEGION AND BRAINIA AND PRESIDENT PSYCHO AND THE JOKER CORPS...

THEY HAD ***SO*** MUCH.

AND ***WE***...WE ONLY HAVE...

...***HOPE.***

RIGHT? WE'RE SOMETHING ***NEW,*** THE ***THREE*** OF US.

A NEW ***GENERATION.***

BUILT ON ***NOTHING*** BUT THAT ***HOPE.***

GEN-S.

I LIKE IT.

I'M NOT GETTING BACK ON A KANGAROO.

WHATEVER.

I ***WIN.***

THERE'S AMBROSIA WAITING AT THE KEEP.

RACE YA FOR IT.

YOU KNOW, THE S ACTUALLY IS A RIVER THAT WOUND THROUGH KRYPTON...

GEN-S. DO YOU SEE WHAT YOU DID, LIZZIE? THIS...THIS IS GOING TO BE HIM NOW.

THIS IS GOING TO BE FOREVER.

EH, I'M AN AMAZON. I DON'T MIND FOREVER.

Y'KNOW.

AS LONG AS IT'S WITH YOU BOYS.

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INTERVIEW WITH WRITER
JASON AARON

Eisner Award-winning writer Jason Aaron and fan-favorite artist John Timms usher in an unpredictable new era for the Man of Steel in *Action Comics* #1061, which kicks off the yearlong Superman Superstars initiative. DC Nation talked with Aaron to get the lowdown on what fans can expect.

What's it like not only to write Superman—but to write him in *Action Comics*, the series that started it all?

It's a huge honor. No other way to describe it. What a phenomenal way to start my first real stint as a writer for DC Comics. First a Batman book, in the form of *Batman: Off-World*, and now a story for *Action Comics*, the series that truly paved the way for so much of what has shaped my life as a comic book fan and creator.

Is Superman a character you've always wanted to write?

For a long time, yeah. I've felt for a while now like you're not really a proper comic book writer until you've gotten to write Superman. Also, there's the fact that my entire 20-year comics-writing career has coincided with me moving to Kansas, so it feels like I need to pay the Man of Steel back for what he's so graciously given me.

How have you enjoyed collaborating with artist John Timms?

John was born to draw Superman and his world. He gives all of it such majesty and splendor, while also nailing all the creepier, weirder elements that are such a big part of this story. And he really goes all out with the first big fight scene we see between Superman and Bizarro, taking things to a truly epic scale.

How did you land on Bizarro as the villain for your story? What makes him different in this story from what readers have seen from him before?

I love the all-out weirdness of Bizarro, but I also saw the chance to bring a darker, more sorrowful edge to the character. This is a broken, damaged version of poor Bizarro, who stumbles upon a revelation about himself that allows him to strike in a wild new way against a world that has hated and mocked him for far too long.

DON'T MISS *ACTION COMICS* #1061, ON SALE IN JANUARY!

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WONDER WOMAN 5. March, 2024. Published monthly by DC Comics, 4000 Warner Blvd., Bldg. 700, 2nd Floor, Burbank, CA 91522. GST # is R125921072. Copyright © 2024 DC Comics. All Rights Reserved. All characters featured in this issue, the distinctive likenesses thereof, and related elements are trademarks of DC Comics. The stories, characters, and incidents mentioned in this magazine are entirely fictional. DC Comics does not read or accept unsolicited submissions of ideas, stories, or artwork. For Advertising and Custom Publishing contact dccomicsadvertising@dc.com. For details on DC Comics Ratings, visit dc.com/ratings.